

**CITY OF CORVALLIS**  
**SUSTAINABLE BUDGET TASK FORCE ACTION MINUTES**  
**August 3, 2016**

The City of Corvallis Sustainable Budget Task Force meeting was called to order at 8:05 AM, August 3, 2016, in the Madison Avenue Meeting Room Corvallis, Oregon, with Chair Hal Brauner presiding.

**ROLL CALL:**

Members Present: Hal Brauner, Barbara Bull (8:07), Karyle Butcher, Joel Hirsch, Mark O'Brien (8:20), Curtis Wright

Staff Present: Mark Shepard, Patrick Rollens, Tracey Finnegan-Wiese

Others:

**SUMMARY OF DISCUSSION:**

Agenda Item	Actions/Recommendations
Approve minutes from July 20, 2016	Minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item	Actions/Recommendations
Messaging Update	<p>Public Information Officer (PIO) Patrick Rollens summarized the written outline for messaging that was included in the packet. SBTF members discussed using the term "Live Within Our Means" and whether people would understand that this would mean service reductions. SBTF members agreed to change the term to "Live Within Our Means and that Means Cuts".</p> <p>The SBTF discussed the Sustainable Revenue alternative and how to be sure it appropriately states that part of the City's financial situation is out of the City's control (e.g., PERS rates, property tax limitations approved at the State-wide level but not locally). PIO Rollens said this will be in background information.</p> <p>Mr. Shepard shared comments made via email by member Mark O'Brien (who would be late to the meeting) with concerns that the City Council has not yet identified the services the City should provide, so that pursuing revenue alternatives was premature. Members of the SBTF agreed service prioritization before revenues was a possible direction, but not the one the Council has asked the task force to pursue. Chair Brauner stated that the current Visioning process is likely to provide direction on what the City could be in the future and will answer the question about where the organization is going.</p> <p>SBTF members discussed having information on the web site during a potential election period, timing for a potential election and for a survey. PIO Rollens stated he thought there could be value in surveying after OSU</p>

Agenda Item	Actions/Recommendations
	<p>students are back in the fall. Member Wright suggested a need to decide whether the survey is of community members or likely voters.</p> <p>The SBTF members agreed likely voters would be the target for a statistically valid survey. However, other mechanisms for feedback should be used to actively listen to community members about services and revenue alternatives. Member Wright pointed out that this informal feedback is not statistically valid and may come from people who would not vote; the Council will need to know the likelihood of a revenue measure passing before something is put on the ballot. The Visioning process may identify what the community wants to be, but there may not be support to fund the Vision.</p> <p>Member O'Brien asked what will be funded by a new revenue – the entire Vision or something else. Member Wright indicated that the survey should provide information about this. The SBTF had a lengthy discussion about how to best get information about which services should be prioritized. If the levy goes away are we eliminating levy funded services? If the new revenue is approved, what are we adding?</p> <p>Mr. Shepard summarized by stating the survey(s) ask the level of support for services and funding – cuts to live within means, some added/funded services via a reduced revenue package, or more added/funded services via a significant revenue package.</p> <p>Member O'Brien stated he represents small business owners who are being inundated with tax and cost increases, so the support for added local revenue that costs businesses is a challenge. Members discussed this issue and that costs to provide services to the entire community are not covered by tax-exempt entities.</p> <p>In summary, PIO Rollens said he got what he needed for the messaging, and pointed out that he is updating the SBTF web page to highlight the work of the task force.</p>

Agenda Item	Actions/Recommendations
Community Comments	There were no community comments.

The Task Force adjourned at 9:00 AM.

An audio recording of the entire meeting can be listened to at:

<http://archive.corvallisoregon.gov/o/doc/795837/Page1.aspx>